PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(54) PRODUCTION OF HYDROXYPROPYLCELLULOSE HAVING LOW DEGREE OF SUBSTITUTION

(57)Abstract:
PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To lower the water content of a hydroxypropylcellulose having a low degree of substitution by dissolving and neutralizing the reaction product at a specified temperature of higher.
SOLUTION: This reaction product is dissolved and neutralized at 60°C or higher. The hydroxypropylcellulose having a low degree of substitution is desirably one having 0.1-0.5 mol of hydroxypropoxyl substituents per anhydroglucose unit. An alkali cellulose prepared by soaking a pulp as a starting material in a 10-50 wt.% aqueous caustic soda solution and pressing the soaked pulp is reacted with propylene oxide at 20-90°C. Alternatively, a powdery pulp is dissolved in an organic solvent, the solution is added to an aqueous caustic soda solution, and the produced alkali cellulose is reacted with propylene oxide. The crude product kept at 60°C or higher is dissolved in 60°C or higher hot water in a dissolver for a definite time and is then neutralized with an acid. The amount of water or hot water used in the dissolution is desirably 2-20 pts.wt. per pt.wt. anhydrous cellulose.

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